

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION USUN

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E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PINS, CY, TU

SUBJECT: INCIDENT INVOLVING CONGRESSMAN BEARD

REF: NICOSIA 2124

1. DCM AND EMBOFFS MET WITH CONGRESSMAN BEARD, DIMITRAKIS GRIGORIOS (AMCIT PRESIDENT OF CYPRUS RELIEF FUND OF BOSTON), AND GOC FOROFF ESCORT OFFICIALS 0600-0650Z JUL 6.
2. CONGRESSMAN STATED HE TRAVELING AT OWN EXPENSE AND THAT HE MADE SNAP DECISION TO VISIT CYPRUS WHILE IN GREECE. FOROFF ACTING PROTOCOL CHIEF VAKIS SAID THAT CONGRESSMAN HAD SO INFORMED GOC VIA GOC EMBASSY IN ATHENS.
3. ACCORDING GOC PIO RELEASE PUT OUT JULY5, CONGRESSMAN AND GRIGORIOS CAME TO DELIEVER COLLECTION OF ASPIRIN AND VITAMINS TO DISPLACED PERSONS. THEY VISITED STAVROU REFUGEE CAMP IN NICOSIA, MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHRISTOPHIDES, ATTENDED DINNER HOSTED BY MINLABOR OFFICIAL VAKIS (DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL WELFARE DEPARTMENT).

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4. CONGRESSMAN SAID THAT HE ASSUMED MARINE GUARD WHO ANSWERED

PHONE SATURDAY AFTERNOON SPOKE WITH AUTHORITY FOR EMBASSY. GUARD ADVISED HIM, IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, TO TAKE TAXI TO FIRST BARRICADE AT LEDRA CHECKPOINT, AND TO PROCEED ON FOOT TO SECOND (TURK) BARRICADE WITH PPT AND CONGRESSIONAL I.D. CARD. CONGRESSMAN ASKED FOR NO OTHER HELP (CAR, ESCORT); GUARD OFFERED HIM NONE. (GUARD HAS CONFIRMED THESE POINTS.) CONGRESSMAN INSISTED THAT HE HAD DONE "PROPER" THING, AND HAD ACTED IN GOOD FAITH FOLLOWING "EMBASSY INSTRUCTIONS." HE SEVERAL TIMES ASSURED EMOFFS THAT HE DOES NOT HOLD EMBASSY OR STATE DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBLE, ONLY "SECURITY MAN."

5. ON ARRIVAL AT CHECKPOINT, CONGRESSMAN AND GRIGORIOS TRIED TO ENTER TURKISH NICOSIA TO SPEND "ONE HOUR" TALKING TO TURK CYPRIOTS AND SOUNDING OUT LOCAL SENTIMENT. TURKISH GUARDS SPOKE GOOD ENGLISH AND TURNED DOWN REQUEST SEVERAL TIMES, SUGGESTING FIRST THAT CONGRESSMAN APPLY FOR VISA (A LABORIOUS PROCEDURE AT BEST) AND FINALLY CONFIRMING THAT A "HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL" (UNNAMED) HAD ORDERED BY PHONE THAT ENTRY BE DENIED. AT THAT POINT, CONGRESSMAN SAYS HE TOLD GUARDS THAT THIS DECISION WOULD BE TURKEY'S LOSS, AS HE HAD HOPED TO GATHER FIRST-HAND IMPRESSIONS ON BASIS OF WHICH HE WOULD VOTE "NEXT WEEK" ON BILL TO RESUME MILITARY SUPPLIES TO TURKEY. CONGRESSMAN STRESSED THAT GUARDS WERE FULLY AWARE OF HIS IDENTITY.

6. AFTER MAKING STATEMENT TO GUARDS CONGRESSMAN SAYS HE TURNED IN "WRONG DIRECTION" AND BEGAN WALKING INTO TURKISH NICOSIA. ABRUPTLY, TWO SENTRIES WITH "AUTOMATICS" CAME TOWARD HIM; GRIGORIOS ADDED THAT A 50-CAL GUN APPEARED FROM "CROW'S NEST" BEHIND BARRICADE. CONGRESSMAN QUICKLY RETURNED TO HILTON WHERE HE GAVE HIS STORY TO PRESS (REF).

7. DCM AND EMOFFS STRESSED TO CONGRESSMAN THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN NO PROBLEM HAD HE INFORMED USG OF HIS PLANS PRIOR ARRIVAL, OR HAD HE ASKED TO SPEAK WITH EMBASSY DUTY OFFICER WHO WOULD HAVE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR HIM TO VISIT OTHER SIDE. WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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STRESSED THAT EMBASSY HAS HANDLED ALL CONGRESSIONAL TRAVEL THIS WAY, WITHOUT MISHAP, AND THAT THE EMBASSY NORMALLY FACILITATES OTHER TRAVEL INTO TURKISH SIDE OF NICOSIA AS WELL. EMOFFS EXPRESSED PERSONAL REGRET AT INCIDENT, TRIED WITH SCANT SUCCESS TO BRIEF CONGRESSMAN ON BACKGROUND OF CURRENT CYPRUS PROBLEM. HE REMAINED ADAMANT THAT TURKS HAD "LOST MY VOTE AND THAT OF MY FRIENDS" IN CONGRESS. HE SAID THAT HE

WOULD VOTE AGAINST BILL ON BASIS OF TREATMENT METED OUT TO HIM AT TURKISH BARRICADE. HE ADDED THAT TURKISH TROOPS "HAVE NO BUSINESS IN CYPRUS," AND HE REPEATED HIS T.V. CHARGE ABOUT A DELIBERATE TURK ATTACK ON THE MELKONIAN INSTITUTE LAST SUMMER. HE PROFESSED PARTICULAR CONCERN THAT TURKS AND TURK CYPRIOTS HAD OFFERED HIM NO APOLOGY OR REGRETS FOR JULY 5 INCIDENT.

8. DISCUSSION ENDED ON THIS INCONCLUSIVE NOTE. CONGRESSMAN LEFT NICOSIA AT 0700Z TO MEET WITH ARCHBISHOP MAKARIOS IN TROODOS SUMMER RESIDENCE. FROM THERE, HE WILL TOUR LIMASSOL AND VISIT HOME FOR AGED PERSONS, AND ARRIVE AT LARNACA AIRPOST 1230Z TODAY. GOC WILL ESCORT HIM ALL THE WAY. CONGRESSMAN RETURNS TO ATHENS THIS AFTERNOON WHEN HE WILL LEAVE FOR U.S. JULY 7.

9. JULY 6 GREEK CYPRIOT PRESS CARRIES STORY PROMINENTLY, STRESSING THAT TURK SOLDIERS HAD THREATENED U.S. CONGRESSMAN WITH AUTOMATICS. PRESS QUOTES OF HIS T.V. INTERVIEW INDICATE HE SAID THAT: (1) BEHAVIOR OF TURK SOLDIERS WAS INSULT TO MEMBER OF CONGRESS, AND HE WOULD PROTEST TO TURK EMBASSY IN D.C. WHEN HE RETURNS; (2) TURKS MUST HAVE SOMETHING TO HIDE ON THEIR SIDE OF GREEN LINE, OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE LET HIM IN ; (3) TURKEY IS AGGRESSOR IN CYPRUS; BOTH COMMUNITIES SUFFER AT HANDS OF MAINLAND TURKS; (4) TURKS CAUSED ARMENIAN MASSACRES, WHICH WERE FIRST GENOCIDE OF TWENTIETH CENTURY; (5) TURKS WANT RESUMPTION OF AMERICAN MILITARY AID SO THAT THEY MAY OCCUPY ALL CYPRUS: "THEY DESERVE A BIG ZERO: THAT'S WHAT THEY DESERVE;" AND (6) WHEN HE RETURNS TO U.S. HE WILL FIGHT AGAINST RESUMPTION OF MILITARY AID TO TURKEY.

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10. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD CALLED ON TURKISH AMBASSADOR INHAN AT 0900Z TO BRIEF HIM ON INCIDENT AND TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF TURKS' PROVIDING STATEMENT WHICH WOULD HELP TO MOLLIFY CONGRESSMAN BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FROM CYPRUS. INHAN SAW CONGRESSMAN'S ACTIONS AS DELIBERATE PROVOCATION BUT ALSO RECOGNIZED P.R. ADVANTAGE WHICH HAD BEEN GAINED BY GREEKS. INHAN AGREED TO AMBASSADOR'S PROPOSAL THAT WE CONVEY TO CONGRESSMAN AN EXPRESSION OF REGRET NOT REPEAT NOT ATTRIBUTABLE TO SPECIFIC TURKISH SOURCE. ACCORDINGLY DCM WILL SEE CONGRESSMAN PRIOR TO TAKEOFF FROM LARNACA AIRPORT THIS AFTERNOON AND WILL PASS SENSE OF FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO HIM: THAT AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH APPROPRIATE TURKISH AUTHORITIES; THAT THEY HAVE DESCRIBED INCIDENT

AT CHECKPOINT AS "REGRETTABLE"; THAT TURKISH AUTHORITIES WOULD HAVE BEEN PLEASED TO RECEIVE CONGRESSMAN IN TURKISH AREA HAD PRIOR NOTIFICATION BEEN GIVEN; AND THAT IF CONGRESSMAN INTENDS TO REMAIN LONGER IN CYPRUS, OR RETURN TO ISLAND, HE IS CORDIALLY INVITED TO VISIT TURKISH ZONE.

11. AMBASSADOR CRAWFORD ALSO DISCUSSED INCIDENT WITH RANKING TURKISH CYPRIOT OFFICIAL PRESENT ON ISLAND, TFSC VICE PRESIDENT OSMAN OREK. OREK GAVE WHOLE-HEARTED APPROVAL OF PASSING ABOVE MESSAGE TO CONGRESSMAN. HE REITERATED THAT HIS ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THAN PLEASED TO SHOW CONGRESSMAN AROUND TURK ZONE HAD EARLIER NOTIFICATION BEEN GIVEN.

12. DCM WILL PASS ABOVE MESSAGE TO CONGRESSMAN IN LOW-KEY MANNER, AVOIDING POSITION EITHER OF OFFERING TURKISH APOLOGIES (THEY FEEL THEY HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR), OR OF GIVING IMPRESSION TO GOC AND CONGREI MAN THAT USG IS GOING ALL OUT TO COVER UP FOR TURKS. DCM WILL EXPRESS AMBASSADOR'S PERSONAL REGRET FOR JULY 5 INCIDENT.
CRAWFORD

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